

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 01276 281659Z

43

ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4082

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP AUGUST 28 - LUANDA

1. FIGHTING HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN MPLA AND UNITA EAST OF LOBITO AND BENGUELA, AT JAMBA AND ALTO CATUMBELA. ACCORDING TO THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY, UNITA HAS THE UPPER HAND AT JAMBA. A RESIDENT IN THE AREA TOLD ME THAT UNITA HAD DRIVEN MPLA OUT OF ALTO CATUMBELA.
 2. MPLA CLAIMS TO HAVE DRIVEN THE ANLA THIRTY KILOMETERS NORTHWARD FROM LUCALA.
 3. THE PORTUGUESE REPORT THAT FNLA AND UNITA CONTINUE TO EVACUATE SA DA BANDEIRA, WHILE MPLA SAYS UNITA IS DISOBEYING THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND REFUSES TO LEAVE A NUMBER OF TOWNS IN HUILA. A RESIDENT OF SA DA BANDEIRA REPORTS THAT DURING THE FIGHTING LAST WEEK UNITA LAID SIEGE TO THE MPLA HEADQUARTERS FOR SIX HOURS.
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 01276 281659Z

THE MPLA BUILDING SUFFERED VERY LITTLE DAMAGE

BUT HIS HOUSE AND OTHERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WERE TOTALLY OR PARTIALLY DESTROYED. HIS HOME WAS NOT EVEN IN THE LINE OF FIRE. WHEN HE CALLED THE PORTUGUESE TROOPS TO COME AND EVACUATE HIM AND THE FAMILY, THEY SAID THEY WOULD COME AS SOON AS THE SHOOTING STOPPED.

4. THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WILL WITHDRAW FROM HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO THIS COMING WEEKEND AND IS ALSO ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO ARRANGE FOR THE PORTUGUESE TO PROTECT RUACANA AND CALUEQUE TO ALLOW THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLAN TERRITORY. THE PORTUGUESE HAVE ALSO PULLED COMPLETELY OUT OF SANTO ANTONIO DO ZAIRE. THEY NOW HAVE GARRISONS AT LUANDA, DONDO, SALAZAR, NOVA LISBOA, LOBITO, BENGUELA, MOCAMEDES AND SA DA BANDEIRA.

5. THE MPLA HAS TRIED SIX OF ITS MEMBERS AND FOUND THEM GUILTY OF MURDERING ELEVAT CIVILIANS. THE ACCUSED WERE MEMBERS OF AN MPLA SELF-DEFENSE UNIT WHO SHOT FOUR MEN FOUR WOMEN AND THREE CHILDREN FOR NO APPARENT REASON. THE PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THE JUDGES REPRESENTED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE GENERAL STAFF, THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES AND THE FIGHTERS COMMITTEES. THE SIX CRIMINALS WERE EXECUTED BY A FIRING SQUAD ON AUGUST 27 IMMEDIATZLY AFTER SENTENCING. THE MPLA GENERAL STAFF DREW THE ATTENTION OF ALL MPLA MEMBERS TO THE NEED FOR DISCIPLINE AND WARNED THAT ALL INFRACTIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY CODE WILL BE PUNISHED TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY THE CODE.

6. MPLA'S NUMBER TWO, LUCIO LARA, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO THE CONGO AND CABINDA, CALLED THE PRESS TOGETHER TO REPORT ON HIS TRAVELS AND TO LAMENT THAT THE FOREIGN PRESS IS STILL DISTORTING THE FACTS ABOUT THE MPLA. ON CABINDA, LARA SAID HE FOUND IT STRANGE THAT FRANCE WOULD ALLOW THE PUPPET FLEC GOVERNMENT IN EXILE INTO FRANCE. EVEN THOUGH DIPLOMATIC SOURCES DENY ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LUANDA 01276 281659Z

COLLUSION BY FRANCE WITH FLEC, LARA SAID THE FACTS INDICATE OTHERWISE. WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, LARA SAID THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED. NETO, ON THE SAME QUESTION, IS QUOTED BY THE GERMAN MAGAZINE "STERN" AS SAYING THAT A COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH UNITA IS STILL POSSIBLE, BUT RULED OUT ANY COALITION THAT INCLUDED FNLA.

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